6/28/88

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 25 NO. 6 JUNE 1988

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Mar '88	Apr '88
Labor Force	227,333	230,005
Employment	209,371	215,059
Unemployment	17,962	14,946
Rate (Raw)	7.9	6.5
Rate (S.A.)	6.7	5.8
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.68	$14.92
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.6	45.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.6	5.4
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.50	$12.44
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.6	42.6
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	116.5	117.1
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.9	+3.9

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

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- Wyoming Counties Ranked by Percent Change in Per Capita Income
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- Wyoming's Ranking According to Selected Tax Collections in 1987

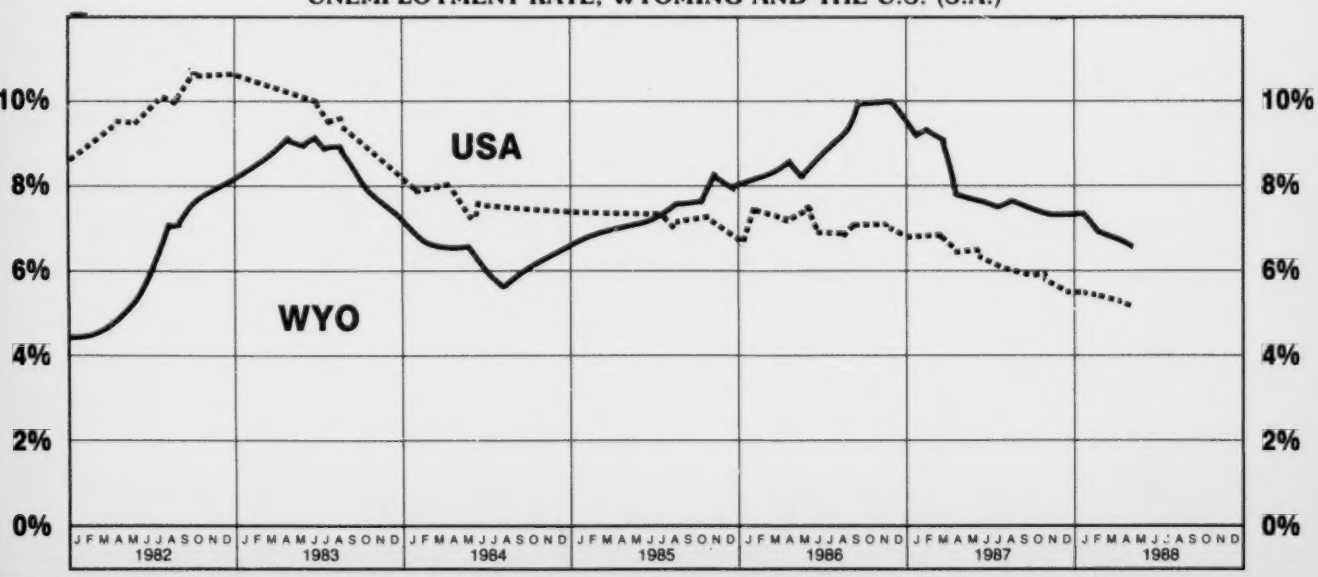
NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT LOWEST SINCE 1974

The national economy continued its five year trend of high expansion as civilian employment, in April at 113.9 million, was 2.9 million greater than in April, 1987. In fact, the U.S. economy registered over one million additional jobs in April as compared to March. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped another two-tenths of a percent from March to 5.4 percent in April, the lowest it has been since 1974.

The largest annual national employment gains were registered in services, up 1.1 million workers, followed by retail trade and manufacturing, both up one-half million, and government which was up 343,000 workers.

For adult women, the unemployment rate continued at 4.8 percent in April, while the jobless rate for men declined to 4.6 percent. The unemployment rate for whites

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

was 4.6 percent in April, for blacks, 12.2 percent, and Hispanics at 9.3 percent was up. The rate for teenagers dropped to 15.9 percent.

STATE'S JOBLESS RATE CONTINUES DOWNWARD TREND

Wyoming's unemployment rate dropped impressively in April to 6.5 percent, down almost a percent-and-a-half from the March rate of 7.9 percent and nearly four percent from the April, 1987 unemployment rate of 10.2 percent. The April seasonally adjusted rate stood at 5.8 percent, statewide, which was also down from the March rate of 6.7 percent and the year-ago rate of 9.1 percent.

The civilian labor force in Wyoming registered 230,005 in April, down by nearly 12,400, or 5.1 percent from one year ago. The number of Wyoming's employed workers, statewide, was posted at just over 215,000 which was up by nearly 5,700 from March, but was down from the April, 1987 total of 217,700. That amounts to a year-to-year decline of 1.2 percent.

MOST WYOMING COUNTIES REGISTER LABOR FORCE DECLINES

Again in April, 18 of the state's 23 counties indicated declines in their labor force. On a statewide level there were slight employment gains noted in manufacturing, mining, services and federal government over-the-year. All other major industries were at or below last year's levels.

Albany County enjoyed the lowest employment rate, 3.7 percent, and also indicated an annual growth rate in excess of two percent as did Hot Springs County with unemployment ranking second at 4.4 percent. Teton County continued to display the highest growth rate in the state, a trend which has lasted over a year, up 7 5 percent from April, 1987.

COUNTY PER CAPITA INCOME

Recently released per capita income figures revealed a wide variation between counties in Wyoming. For example, Teton County's 1986 income per resident was $18,771, while at the other end of the scale, Big Horn County was about half that, just $9,556. The Bureau of Economic Analysis released the figures in May, 1988 and the results show that while 11 counties saw growth in their incomes, the majority declined, as did the statewide average.

The dependence on mining to a county's economy was evident as the counties with the greatest percent decline over 1985 included Natrona and Campbell counties. Natrona experienced a six percent decline and Campbell County's income fell by more than nine percent.

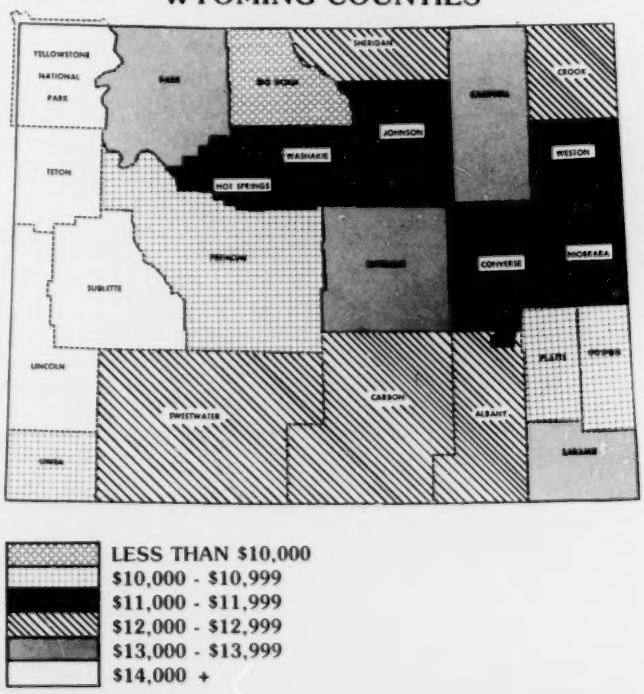
Teton County had the highest per capita income and ranked third by percent change from 1985 to 1986. Platte and Uinta counties ranked one and two, with increases of 13.74 percent and 9.82 percent respectively.

WYOMING COUNTIES RANKED BY PERCENT CHANGE IN PER CAPITA INCOME 1985-1986

	1985	1986	1985-1986 PERCENT CHANGE
1. Platte	8,881	10,101	13.74
2. Uinta	9,877	10,847	9.82
3. Teton	17,767	18,771	5.65
4. Goshen	10,405	10,911	4.86
5. Johnson	11,259	11,675	3.69
6. Niobrara	11,452	11,791	2.96
7. Crook	11,927	12,273	2.90
8. Albany	11,865	12,076	1.78
9. Fremont	10,212	10,344	1.29
10. Converse	11,842	11,911	0.58
11. Sheridan	12,886	12,892	0.05
12. Laramie	13,580	13,567	-0.10
13. Big Horn	9,688	9,556	-1.36
14. Park	13,203	13,002	-1.52
15. Carbon	12,785	12,499	-2.24
16. Weston	11,647	11,379	-2.30
17. Hot Springs	12,199	11,900	-2.45
18. Lincoln	15,722	15,330	-2.49
19. Washakie	11,453	11,157	-2.58
20. Sublette	16,445	15,967	-2.91
21. Sweetwater	13,354	12,966	-2.91
22. Natrona	14,525	12,655	-6.00
23. Campbell	15,133	13,755	-9.11

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, May, 1988.

1986 PER CAPITA INCOME WYOMING COUNTIES



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, June, 1988.

EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS CHARACTERISTICS OF FAMILIES: FIRST QUARTER 1988

The number of families with a full-time worker increased by about 750,000 over the year ended in the first quarter of 1988. Families with at least one full-time worker now account for three-fourths of the nation's 64.2 million families, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median family earnings also continue to rise and, at $580 a week in the first quarter of 1988, were 4 percent higher than a year earlier. Other first-quarter 1988 highlights were:

— About 52 million families (81 percent of all families) had at least one employed member and 93 percent of these families had no one unemployed. White families with employed members continued to be less likely to contain an unemployed person than either black or Hispanic families.

— The number of families with unemployed members fell to 5.5 million (8.5 percent of all families) in the first quarter of 1988. This was 800,000, or 12 percent, below the level of a year earlier. About 40 percent of the over-the-year decline was among married-couple families where the husband had been jobless.

— There were 300,000 more employed mothers in the first quarter of 1988 than a year earlier. The increase was about equally divided between mothers of preschool- and school-age children and resulted in a slightly lower level of unemployment among mothers. Overall, the number of families with an unemployed parent declined by 12 percent over the year.

— The median wage and salary earnings of married-couple families were $648 in the first quarter. Earnings were $480 for families where the husband was the sole earner and more than $1,000 where the wife and other family members were also earners. Median weekly earnings of families maintained by women ($323) remained about half those of married-couple families.

— At $597, median weekly earnings for all white families were about 40 percent greater than the medians for all black ($421) or all Hispanic ($432) families. There were much smaller earnings differences, however, among families with two or more earners. For example, at $774 a week, the median for white families with two or more earners was just 17 percent greater than that for black families with two or more earners and 28 percent greater than the median for this group of Hispanic families.

WYOMING'S RANKING ACCORDING TO SELECTED TAX COLLECTIONS IN 1987

FIRST in per capita motor vehicle license tax
- Wyoming $ 74.39/Resident
- All State Average $ 34.22/Resident

NINTH in per capita total taxes
- Wyoming $1,289.12/Resident
- All State Average $1,018.00/Resident

23RD in per capita general sales tax
- Wyoming $ 307.51/Resident
- All State Average $ 328.77/Resident

27TH in per capita death and gift tax
- Wyoming $ 7.20/Resident
- All State Average $ 12.45/Resident

29TH in per capita motor fuel sales tax
- Wyoming $ 72.36/Resident
- All State Average $ 64.51/Resident

45TH in total taxes

49TH in percent change in tax collections from 1986 to 1987 (-20.6)

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March, 1988

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
April 1988	117.1	116.7	117.3	119.6	117.0	107.2	136.9
Annual % Change	3.9	3.5	3.6	4.5	4.9	2.9	6.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	APR 1988[1]	MAR 1988[1]	APR 1987[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	230,005	227,333	242,371	1.2	- 5.1
Unemployment	14,946	17,962	24,636	- 16.8	- 39.3
Employed Labor Force	215,059	209,371	217,735	2.7	- 1.2
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	162,500	158,900	165,755	2.3	- 2.0
b. Agriculture[3]	12,944	10,343	12,153	25.1	6.5
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	6.5% 5.8%*	7.9% 6.7%*	10.2% 9.1%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.3% 5.4%*	5.9% 5.6%*	6.2% 6.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.0%	3.7%	4.5%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 678.86	$ 625.37	$ 590.63	8.6	14.9
Average Weekly Hours	45.5	42.6	39.8	6.8	14.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.92	$ 14.68	$ 14.84	1.6	0.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	23,247	30,864	38,961	- 24.7	- 40.3
a. Initial	2,785	3,030	3,546	- 8.1	- 21.5
Weeks Compensated	18,318	27,405	39,824	- 33.2	- 54.0
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,795,259	$ 4,246,824	$ 6,359,356	- 34.2	- 56.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 152.28	$ 154.62	$ 159.42	- 1.5	- 4.5
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	2,899	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	2,195	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	1,797	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 529.94	$ 520.00	$ 519.57	1.9	2.0
Average Weekly Hours	42.6	41.6	41.8	2.4	1.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.44	$ 12.50	$ 12.43	- 0.5	0.0
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	117.1	116.5	112.7	0.5	3.9
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	105.8	104.9	101.9	0.9	3.8
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	116.7	116.0	112.8	0.6	3.5

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987	%CHANGE MAR-APR	%CHANGE APR-APR	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987
Statewide	230,005	227,333	242,371	1.2	- 5.1	14,946	17,962	24,636	6.5	7.9	10.2
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									5.8	6.7	9.1
Albany	16,298	16,101	15,949	1.2	2.2	601	718	826	3.7	4.5	5.2
Big Horn	4,822	4,601	5,018	4.8	- 3.9	428	526	673	8.9	11.4	13.4
Campbell	14,987	14,713	16,399	1.9	- 8.6	1,000	1,202	1,813	6.7	8.2	11.1
Carbon	7,613	7,449	8,002	2.2	- 4.9	642	737	905	8.4	9.9	11.3
Converse	5,422	5,339	6,042	1.6	- 10.3	444	512	718	8.2	9.6	11.9
Crook	3,185	2,989	3,151	6.6	1.1	191	272	291	6.0	9.1	9.2
Fremont	15,593	15,747	16,492	- 1.0	- 5.5	1,364	1,525	2,017	8.7	9.7	12.2
Goshen	6,482	6,088	6,591	6.5	- 1.7	449	563	507	6.9	9.2	7.7
Hot Springs	3,128	3,051	3,061	2.5	2.2	137	180	247	4.4	5.9	8.1
Johnson	3,429	3,233	3,498	6.1	- 2.0	202	259	392	5.9	8.0	11.2
Laramie	35,735	35,666	36,961	0.2	- 3.3	1,764	2,209	2,664	4.9	6.2	7.2
Lincoln	6,029	5,906	6,981	2.1	- 13.6	475	659	1,018	7.9	11.2	14.6
Natrona	30,135	30,265	32,101	- 0.4	- 6.1	2,018	2,497	3,843	6.7	8.3	12.0
Niobrara	1,888	1,806	1,814	4.5	4.1	94	134	178	5.0	7.4	9.8
Park	12,330	11,975	12,546	3.0	- 1.7	764	849	1,150	6.2	7.1	9.2
Platte	4,559	4,389	4,619	3.9	- 1.3	282	384	458	6.2	8.7	9.9
Sheridan	11,990	11,805	12,787	1.6	- 6.2	656	846	1,056	5.5	7.2	8.3
Sublette	2,521	2,612	3,065	- 3.5	- 17.7	210	278	483	8.3	10.6	15.8
Sweetwater	18,169	17,978	20,652	1.1	- 12.0	1,441	1,699	2,490	7.9	9.5	12.1
Teton	8,546	8,826	7,953	- 3.2	7.5	472	340	602	5.5	3.9	7.6
Uinta	9,124	8,996	10,345	1.4	- 11.8	817	939	1,444	9.0	10.4	14.0
Washakie	4,693	4,632	4,804	1.3	- 2.3	306	401	525	6.5	8.7	10.9
Weston	3,324	3,170	3,541	4.9	- 6.1	188	236	337	5.7	7.4	9.5
United States									5.3	5.9	6.2
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.4	5.6	6.3

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	APR 1988[2]	MAR 1988[3]	APR 1987	MAR 1988	APR 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to APR 1988	to APR 1988
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	174.9	173.5	175.7	0.8	- 0.5
Manufacturing	7.9	7.8	7.6	1.3	3.9
Durable Goods	3.7	3.6	3.4	2.8	8.8
Nondurable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	167.0	165.7	168.1	0.8	- 0.7
Mining	17.0	17.2	16.7	- 1.2	1.8
Contract Construction	8.3	7.2	9.7	15.3	- 14.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.6	12.5	12.7	0.8	- 0.8
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Transportation except Railroads	4.7	4.6	4.8	2.2	- 2.1
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.7	38.5	39.0	0.5	- 0.8
Wholesale Trade	6.6	6.7	6.8	- 1.5	- 2.9
Retail Trade	32.1	31.8	32.2	0.9	- 0.3
Food Stores	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.1	5.0	5.2	2.0	- 1.9
Eating & Drinking Places	12.1	11.9	11.9	1.7	1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.5	0.0	- 4.0
Services	30.9	30.9	30.6	0.0	1.0
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.8	7.7	7.8	1.3	0.0
Government	52.3	52.2	51.9	0.2	0.8
Federal Government	7.4	7.3	7.0	1.4	5.7
State & Local Government	44.9	44.9	44.9	0.0	0.0
State Government	13.3	13.3	13.4	0.0	- 0.7
Local Government	31.6	31.6	31.5	0.0	0.3

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	APR 1988[2]	MAR 1988[3]	APR 1987	MAR 1988	APR 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to APR 1988	to MAY 1988
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.0	25.9	26.0	0.4	0.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	24.7	24.6	24.8	0.4	- 0.4
Mining	2.5	2.5	2.2	0.0	13.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.3	2.3	2.1	0.0	9.5
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.0	- 21.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.8	7.8	7.5	0.0	4.0
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.5
Retail Trade	5.5	5.5	5.8	0.0	- 5.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	- 6.7
Services	5.3	5.2	5.4	1.9	- 1.9
Government	4.9	4.9	5.1	0.0	- 3.9
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	- 14.3
State & Local Government	4.3	4.3	4.4	0.0	- 2.3
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.8	29.5	29.9	1.0	- 0.3
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.7	28.4	28.8	1.1	- 0.3
Contract Construction	1.8	1.6	1.8	12.5	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.0	6.8	0.0	2.9
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.3	6.3	6.1	0.0	3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Government	10.0	9.9	10.2	1.0	- 2.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	7.3	7.2	7.5	1.4	- 2.7

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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Dick Sadler, Executive Director
Bill Davis, Chief, Research and Analysis
Gordon Wolford, Statistical Analyst
Mike Paris, Statistical Analyst
Velma Marks, R&C Assistant II

Please send comments, questions or address changes to Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Research and Analysis Section, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602, Ph. (307) 235-3643.

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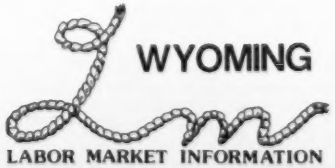

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